



**PIPER RUDNICK<sup>LLP</sup>**  
1200 NINETEENTH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2412  
TELEPHONE: 202-861-3900  
FACSIMILE: 202-223-2085

DOCKET NO.: 9528-005-27

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
PO BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Re: Serial No.: 09/881,045  
Applicant(s): STEPHEN W. DOWNING  
Filing Date: JUNE 15, 2001  
For: APPARATUSES AND METHODS FOR PERFORMING MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL PROCEDURES INSIDE OF A  
BEATING HEART  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: NGUYEN, VICTOR

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 23 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SIR:

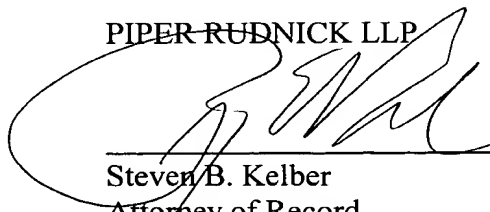
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$ -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary extension of time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to Deposit Account No. 50-1442. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a request is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER RUDNICK LLP

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven B. Kelber  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No.: 30,073

Perry E. Van Over  
Registration No.: 42,197